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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings shows Figures 7A and 7B without being connected by projection lines.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

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Remarks/Arguments:

I. Introduction

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-4 and 7-11 will be pending in this application. Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of the pending claims.

II. Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the corrected drawings as shown Figures 7A and 7B connected by projection lines. Revised figures are being submitted without the projection lines, as requested by the Examiner.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner's position is that it is unclear whether the phrase "means ... for receiving the pins" in line 6 is the same or different from the means for receiving the pins recited in claim 5. Appropriate correction has been made.

IV. 35 U.S.C. § 102

A. Downey

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 8, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,798,924 to Downey. The Examiner states that Figs. 1-3 show a coupling comprising the claimed elements. Applicants disagree.

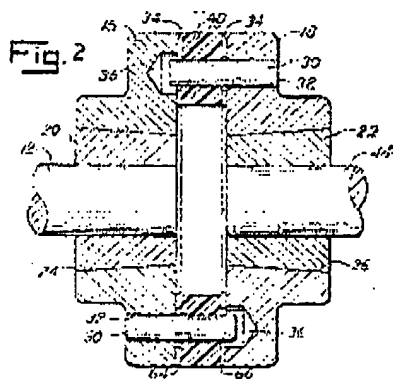
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- Pin length

First, the Downey design does not provide its pins 30 having a "length sufficient to be received substantially completely by a means for receiving the pins." The Downey pins are barely received by the recesses 36, as shown below. By contrast, Applicant's pins are claimed and shown as substantially completely received by opposing openings. Figures from Downey and the instant application are reproduced below for comparison.



DOWNEY

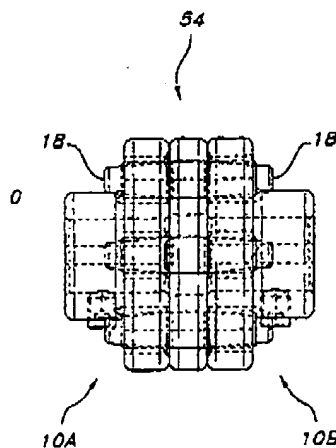


FIG. 5

CURRENT APPLICATION

Even a slight disengagement of the Downey flanges would cause the system to fail, whereas if the hubs of the presently claimed invention were to disengage, the pins would remain in contact with the other hub, holding the system together.

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- Tapered free end

Additionally, in the interest of advancing the prosecution of this application, and in an effort to even further distinguish the structure of the claimed coupling from the art, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that its pins have a tapered free end. Support for this amendment appears in the specification at page 6, lines 3-4, and is shown in FIG. 1.

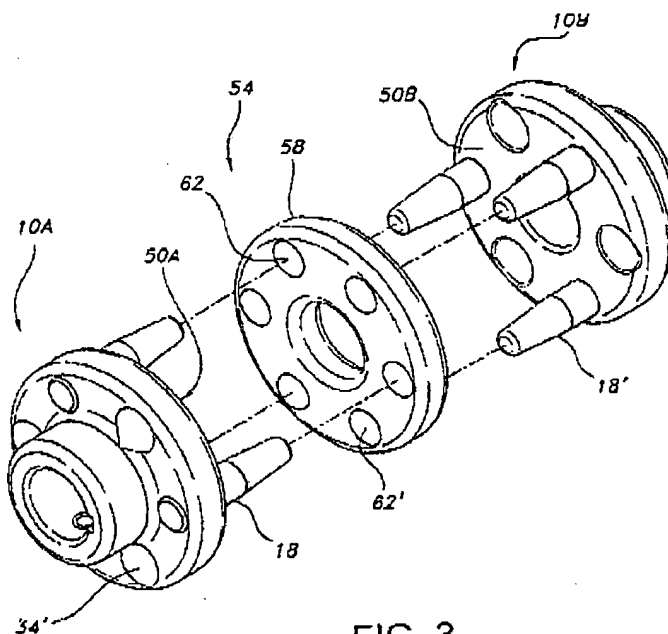


FIG. 3

The tapered free ends are in contrast to the pins of Downey, which remain at a constant diameter throughout their entire lengths. The claimed tapers can help provide additional angular clearance, providing benefits that are not provided by the Downey design.

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Thus, because the Downey reference does not teach each and every claimed element, it cannot be found to anticipate the claims, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

B. Hickman

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-4 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by GB Reference No. 582,901 to Hickman. The Examiner states that Hickman shows a coupling comprising the claimed elements. Applicants disagree.

- No openings in hub assembly

First, the Hickman coupling relies on a center member that consists of an elastomer (or rubber-like) material 6 that is bonded or fused to metallic plates or discs 1, 2. These plates are connected to the hubs 8, 9 (referred to by Hickman as the driving elements) by a plurality of pins 10. The Hickman coupling depends on the connection of the hubs to the fused elastomer center to transmit rotational forces.

Although there are openings 3 in the plates connected to the elastomer, there are not openings in the opposing hub assemblies, as Applicants claim. Applicants do not dispute that the hubs can receive the shaft 10 of the pin – however, the hubs do not have means for receiving the other end of a pin from the other hub assembly. The end 13 of each pin 10 is described as being co-planar with the edge 11 of the hole 3 of plate. It clearly does not extend into the hub assembly 8 or 9. Accordingly, Hickman simply does not teach or disclose first and second hub assemblies comprising “means for receiving the pin of the other hub assembly.”

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- Pin length

Likewise, the pins are not received by other hub assembly as claimed, and as such, they clearly do not have "a length sufficient to be received substantially completely by a means for receiving the pin" as claimed.

C. Kanamaru et al.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-4, 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,035,677 to Kanamaru. The Examiner states that Kanamaru shows a coupling comprising the claimed elements. Applicants disagree.

- Tapered free end

Applicants note that the Kanamaru patent was not used to reject claim 7, which recites a tapered end. Claim 1 has been amended to include the tapered free end, and as such, Kanamaru does not teach or suggest each and every claimed element of claim 1 (and the claims depending therefrom). Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that the claims should be considered allowable over the Kanamaru patent.

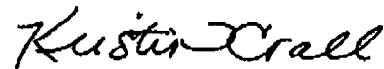
Moreover, it bears noting that in order for the Kanamaru device to work properly, spherical balls or bearings 6 need to be inserted on the pins, and the bearing are part of the portion that is actually received by the opposite input shaft 1, 2, not solely the pins. The spherical bearings need to fit tightly to the pins in order for the design to work efficiently without fatigue. By contrast, the present invention does not require such precise manufacturing.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims and issuance of a patent containing these claims in due course. If there remain any additional issues to be addressed, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 404.815.6147.

Respectfully submitted,



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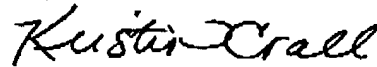
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PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), Applicants petition that the period for response to the Office Action dated August 14, 2006, in connection with the above-identified application be extended for two months, to and including January 14, 2007. A credit card authorization for the fee for this petition is enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Order Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



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